

2001 FFA Hall of Fame Inductee

John A. James

John A. James was born in Livingston, Wisconsin in 1884 and attended a one-room grade school in Rewey before moving in with his grandparents in Linden so he could attend a high school. After high school, he was hired to teach grade school in a one-room school near Livingston in 1901-1902 and was paid \$22.00 a month. He helped with chores and farm work for room and board.

John enjoyed experiencing many new technologies in agriculture during the early 1900's, including the release of hybrid seed corn and alfalfa. In 1914, he was asked to begin a teacher educator program during its infancy. After the passage of the Smith Hughes Act, which gave federal aid to vocational agriculture, he established in the Department of Agriculture Education at the University of Wisconsin in 1918.

John was president of the Midwest Vocational Education Association and was Alpha Zeta member, as well as the recipient of the FFA key in 1953, which he always wore on his key chain. Professor James started a collegiate FFA on the Madison, campus and it has had a vigorous history through the years.

At the time of his retirement in 1954, John had advised over 1,000 agricultural education graduates who took jobs either as high school agriculture teachers or as county agents, without a doubt a national record at that time.

He was a widower and re-married. Of 5 children, his son, John, of Baldwin City, Kansas survives. Professor James passed away in 1977.